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Coal-Mining Community: Two Stories

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Recommended Citation

Carlson, Mark D., "Coal-Mining Community: Two Stories" (2000). *Honors Theses*. Paper 119.

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Coal-Mining Community:
Two Stories

UHON 499
Honors Thesis
Director: Kenneth Keller

Mark Carlson
Spring 2000

[OnCam:MarkC]
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LON'S BARBER SHOP
STORY Number One

Mark Carlson
333 66 3181

NATS OF CARS DRIVING BY.

Lon Clutts/Barber 40 years: "In '59 there was close to 15 barbers here in town."

MARK CARLSON/REPORTING: LON CLUTTS HAS BEEN BEHIND THE CHAIR FOR 40 YEARS AND HE'S SEEN A LOT OF BARBERS LAY DOWN THEIR SISSORS IN THAT TIME..

Lon Clutts/Barber 40 years: "A friend of mine, a barber, went down into one. A month later, he was working in it."

MARK CARLSON/REPORTING: MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE A SEAT TODAY AT LON'S BARBER SHOP ARE EX-COAL MINERS. LON HAS SEEN MINE AFTER MINE CLOSE IN THE WEST FRANKFORT AREA AND REMEBERS TURNING ON HIS CLIPPERS FOR ALMOST NOTHING BUT MINERS.

Lon Clutts/Barber 40 years: "I'd say 75% of the guys was either coal miners or something to do with the coal mining industry here."

MARK CARLSON/REPORTING: FORTUNATELY ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT CHANGES IN LON'S BUSINESS IS HOW HE CUT'S YOUR HAIR.

NATS: "Regular flat top on the sides and then a little longer on top flat top."

MARK CARLSON/REPORTING: JOBS IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY MINES WERE ALL CUT OFF BY 1996. FORCING MANY OF LON'S CUSTOMERS TO HIT THE ROAD ON A JOB HUNT.

Chuck Wright/Former Miner: "A friend of mine started me in the truck driving it's the only thing you can do around here to compensate the kind of money we was doing in the coal mines."

NATS OF CLIPPING

Lon Clutts/Barber 40 years: "I just know that people has had to change to different work, some people I was cutting their hair as coal miners they're truck driving or whatever their doing you know."

NATS OF CLIPPING

Charles Henson/Former Miner: "Everybody was getting laid off and then next thing I know there was not anything going on. People were drifting in and out."

MARK CARLSON/REPORTING: ONLY THREE OTHER BARBERS ARE LEFT IN WEST FRANKFORT. THE MINES HAVE TAKEN MANY PEOPLE AWAY, BUT LON DOESN'T HAVE ANY PLANS TO PUT THE CLIPPERS DOWN ANYTIME SOON.

NATS: "YOU READY". AND THE DOOR CLOSING.

MARK CARLSON: IN WEST FRANKFORT MARK CARLSON NEWS THREE.

[OnCam:MarkC]
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STORY Number Two

Mark Carlson
333 66 3181

MARK CARLSON/REPORTING: COAL MINING BROUGHT THE U.M.W.A. HOSPITAL TO WEST FRANKFORT. NOW IT'S A MAJOR REASON WHY THE HOSPITAL IS STANDING ON IT'S LAST LEG.

Pete Golio/Former Board Member: "The hospital was built by coal miners who checked off from their weekly pay."

MARK CARLSON: THE ORIGINAL HOSPITAL WAS ORGANIZED IN 1916. AT ONE TIME THE WEST FRANKFORT HOSPITAL WAS THE LARGEST IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, AND IT PROVIDED GREAT HEALTH CARE FOR THE MINING FAMILIES.

Pete Golio/Former Board Member: "So when I had my tonsils taken out at the age of 5, my dad being an association member. It didn't cost us anything."

MARK CARLSON: AS THESE MINES SLOWLY FADED AWAY SO HAS THE HOSPITAL.

Judy Eubanks/Nurse 32 Years: "You can not get industry into a town if you don't have a hospital, or some kind of medical facility."

MARK CARLSON: THE 1990'S BEGAN THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR EMPLOYEES AT THE HOSPITAL. ALL OF THE MINES CLOSED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY AND U.M.W.A HOSPITAL LOOKED LIKE IT WAS SOON TO FOLLOW.

Iris Hampleman/Respiratory Care 24 Years: "It was like a roller coaster that you can't get off. It goes down hill and there's nothing you can do about it."

Pete Golio/Former Board Member: "They agreed to take it over and pay the debts and operate it. So S.I.H. took over and as a member of the board I was thrilled to death that they came in. It was just a matter of time we would have had to fold up anyway."

MARK CARLSON: SOUTHERN ILLINOIS HEALTHCARE TOOK OVER THE HOSPITAL IN 1996. WITHOUT THEIR TAKE OVER THE HOSPITAL WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED THIS LONG ACCORDING TO EMPLOYEES. BUT WITHOUT THE SUPPORT FROM AREA MINING JOBS THE WEST FRANKFORT LANDMARK IS GETTING BEING SQUEEZED OUT BY GOVERNMENT HEALTHCARE CUTBACKS.

Judy Eubanks/Nurse 32 Years: "It has taken away a lot of our funding and made it so we really can't keep our doors open. Besides the fact of losing coal miners we have lost money to Government regulations and it's closing a lot of small hospitals and it's going to help close us."

MARK CARLSON: RIGHT NOW IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE IS MUCH HOPE FOR THE HOSPITAL TO SURVIVE MUCH LONGER. IN WEST FRANKFORT MARK CARLSON NEWS THREE.